

Applicant : Belef, et al.
Appl. No. : 10/081,723
Examiner : Dawson, Glenn K.
Docket No. : 701879.18

Amendments to Specification

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 33 of the specification with the following (deletions from the original are shown in brackets [], additions are underlined):

The obturator housing 180 ([not shown,]see FIG. 3A) preferably includes a lock [(not shown)] 189 for securing the rod 178 and rail 172 relative to one another, e.g., to lock the splines 186 in their expanded configuration. The lock may be released, for example, by depressing the switch 188 again, by activating an emergency release (not shown) and/or by activating a release mechanism (not shown) when the carrier assembly 14 is advanced, as explained below. The obturator housing 180 may include a spring or other biasing mechanism (not shown) for biasing the rail 172 and/or rod 178 to return the splines 186 to their collapsed configuration and/or to retract the distal portion 182 back into the sheath 12 when the lock is released. For example, the lock may be released upon advancing the actuator members 76, 78, 80 to a predetermined position, e.g., before or after attaining the second distal position, as explained further below.